IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A payment system for automatic vending machines, comprising at least one programmable micro processor or electronic chip (10), for univocally identifying fingerprints (30) of each user of said machines, by comparing memorized memory elements (40) of certain scanning points of fingerprint images with the fingerprints (30) of each said user of said machine to effect electronic identification wherein said micro processor or electronic chip (10) memorizes fingerprints (30) of each user, memorizes a selected product and a price of the selected product, wherein when said selected product is subsequently selected, said price of said selected product is progressively reduced on basis of the volume of said products purchased (90).

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented) The payment system according to claim 1, wherein said fingerprints (30) are acquired by means of an electronic acquisition apparatus (20) and identification and comparison procedure (60).

Claim 4 (previously presented) The payment system according to claim 2, wherein said push-button device (52) comprises at least one key (51) for controlling a remaining credit determined from a user's prior depositing of currency in said automatic vending machine, by the pressing of at least one fingertip, whose fingerprint (30) had been memorized.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The payment system according to claim 1, wherein said fingerprints (30) are acquired by means of an electronic processing of images relating to geometric forms of said fingerprint (30).

Claim 6 (previously presented) The payment system according to claim 5, wherein said micro-processor (10) transmits reading data of said fingerprints (30) to said

memory (40), which acts as an archive, associating amounts paid by said users to said digital images of the fingerprints (30) corresponding to said users.